

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 TRSE-00 STR-01 L-02

COME-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /051 R

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USDA:ERBEVIS

EB/TA:TFO'HERRON

TREASURY:MCHAVES

STR:SLANDE

EA/J:BROWN

----- 027790

P R 042249Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAGR

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL RE HOTEL BEEF QUOTA

REF: (A) TOKYO 1155; (B) STATE 262240

1. ALTHOUGH JAPAN MAY BE HAVING PROBLEM IN DOMESTIC BEEF SECTOR, THE GOJ POLICY OF PRESERVING THE HIGH PRICE STRUCTURE OF SMALL, PROTECTED JAPANESE MARKET PUTS PROBLEM IN DIFFERENT CATEGORY THAN PROBLEMS OF MOST OTHER COUNTRIES. JAPANESE PRICE FOR MIDDLE GRADE DAIRY STEER BEEF AT TOKYO FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 10-16 AVERAGED
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983Y PER KG. EQUIVALENT U.S. PRICE WAS ABOUT 400Y PER KG.

FURTHERMORE, TOKYO PRICES HAVE BEEN IMPROVING, UP FROM THE AVERAGE OF 733Y FOR AUGUST 9-13 PERIOD.

2. USG NOTES THAT UNDER SAWABE PROPOSAL, PARAGRAPH 2, REFTTEL, NEW HOTEL QUOTA WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL 2ND HALF OF JFY 75, I.E., AT LEAST OCTOBER; NEW HOTEL QUOTA WOULD BE GLOBAL WITH NO ASSURANCE IT WOULD BE OBTAINED BY U.S. SUPPLIERS, AND NO ADJUSTMENT OFFERED FOR FAILURE TO ISSUE QUOTAS FOR JFY 74, AND 1ST HALF JFY 75.

3. FURTHERMORE, USG HAS AS MUCH OR MORE INTEREST IN REOPENING OF GENERAL QUOTAS AS IN HOTEL QUOTA FROM TWO ASPECTS:

(A) U.S. EXPORTS OF BEEF TO JAPAN TOTALLED 11,237 MT IN CY 73 AND 6,059 MT IN CY 74 WITH TIGHTENING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND EVENTUAL VIRTUAL EMBARGO. SO U.S. HAS IMPORTANT DIRECT INTEREST IN REOPENING AND LIBERALIZATION OF OVERALL JAPANESE BEEF MARKET.

(B) REOPENING OF JAPANESE GENERAL QUOTA WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE POTENTIAL PRESSURE OF AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND EXPORTS ON U.S. MARKET.

4. EMBASSY MAY, AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE, DRAW ON ABOVE AND INFORM SAWABE THAT, WHILE ANY LIBERALIZATION OF JAPANESE BEEF IMPORTS WOULD BE A WELCOME SIGN, A PROMISE OF LIBERALIZATION OF THE SMALL HOTEL TRADE QUOTA EIGHT TO NINE MONTHS HENCE WOULD BE QUITE INSIGNIFICANT IN COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS AND POTENTIAL U.S. TRADE. U.S. POSITION REMAINS THAT JAPAN'S GATT-UNAUTHORIZED MEAT RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE LIBERALIZED AT ONCE TO RESTORE REASONABLE LEVELS OF TRADE, AND SHOULD BE TOTALLY WITHDRAWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. PARA 5 REF B WHICH INDICATES FIRM U.S. OPPOSITION TO MEAT RESTRICTIONS OF EC AND OTHER COUNTRIES MAY ALSO BE DRAWN UPON. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORT QUOTAS, MEATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE025666
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PLMACKIE:STATE/EB/OFP/FPD:RSSIMPSON:JV
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750041-0210
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750272/aaaacnkc.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TOKYO 1155, 75 STATE 262240
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <31 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSAL RE HOTEL BEEF QUOTA
TAGS: EAGR, US, JA
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006